

Application No.: 10/052,145
Amendment Dated: April 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of: January 7, 2005

MAT-8220US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-8 are rejected. Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 have been amended. No new material is introduced herein.

The specification has been objected to as including the ungrammatical phrase "At this time" on page 2, line 18 of the disclosure. This phrase has been removed. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schwartz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,241,619). Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 have been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted, however, that amended claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are patentable for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants invention, as recited by amended claim 1 includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... storing the candidate word ...

... on the basis of a first hypothesis-storage determining criterion when within the word ...

...on the basis of a second hypothesis-storage determining criterion when at the word end ...

... the first hypothesis-storage determining criterion selects candidate words within a predetermined threshold from a maximum value of the recognition score...

... the second hypothesis-storage determining criterion selects a subset of candidate words from among candidate words selected according to the first hypothesis-storage determining criterion, the subset of candidate words selected according to a predetermined number of upper ranking recognition scores ... (Emphasis Added)

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Amended claim 1 is supported in the specification, for example, p 11, line 11 through p 12, line 2.

Schwartz et al. disclose a speech recognition system that performs an N-Best search. An utterance is divided into frames and for each frame, word theory probability scores are computed to generate a combined probability of a partial sentence hypothesis (col. 3, lines 43-45) beginning with the utterance and ending with the current state of the current frame (col. 10, lines 7-8). Schwartz et al. thus determine and store candidate words in memory at each node of a grammar. Schwartz et al. do not disclose nor suggest the features of applicants amended claim 1, namely: storing the candidate word 1) "on the basis of a first hypothesis-storage determining criterion when within the word ...selects candidate words within a predetermined threshold from a maximum value of the recognition score.." and 2) "on the basis of a second hypothesis-storage determining criterion when at the word end ...selects a subset of candidate words from among candidate words selected according to the first hypothesis-storage determining criterion, the subset of candidate words selected according to a predetermined number of upper ranking recognition scores" (emphasis added).

Applicants' amended claim 1 further represents an advantage over Schwartz et al. Because Schwartz et al. determine and store candidate words at each node, the computational load and memory quantity will increase in proportion to increasing the nodes. In Applicants amended claim 1, at a word end, a subset of candidate words are selected and stored from among candidate words selected according to the first hypothesis-storage determining criterion. Therefore, the computational load and memory quantity will be reduced with applicants' amended claim 1 as compared with Schwartz et al. Thus, applicants amended claim 1 represents an advantage and is patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

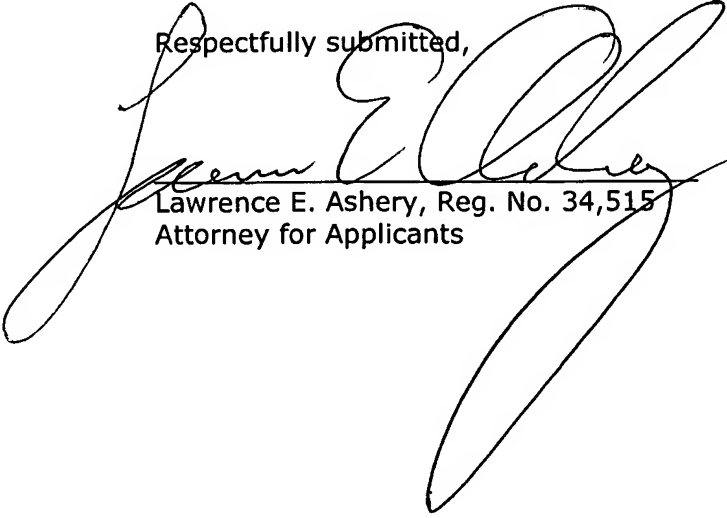
Applicants' amended independent claims 3, 5 and 7 also recite the above features. Again, these features are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record. Accordingly, these independent claims are also patentable over the cited art of record.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance of which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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DG/ds/fp

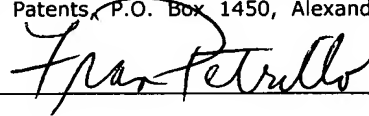
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